GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:388
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005
PENDING RAILWAY PROJECTS
Athawale Shri Ramdas;Majhi Shri Parsuram

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of railway projects in the country have not been cleared by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details of these pending projects, State-wise; and;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to get these projects cleared from the Planning Commission ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (c) The following projects have been processed for 'in principle approval'/appraisal of Planning Commission:

i) Mughalsarai-Utretia Railway Electrification − Uttar Pradesh;

ii) Extension of Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) from Velacherry to St. Thomas Mount − Chennai − Tamil Nadu

iii) Dimapur − Kohima new line − Nagaland

iv) Chola-Bulandshahar new line − Uttar Pradesh. Planning Commission has been requested to convey early approval/appraisal.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 385 BY SHRI HEMLAL MURMU TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 21.04.2005 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF RAILWAY PROJECTS.

(a) & (b): A Standing Empowered Committee has been set up in September, 2004 to periodically review and monitor the progress of projects costing Rs.100 crore and above. The Empowered Committee is headed by Member Engineering, Railway Board and consists of Secretary, Planning Commission, Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Additional Member (Budget), Railway Board as its members. Since this is a standing committee, it is not required to give one time specific recommendations regarding project implementation.

There are in all over 135 Railway projects costing more than Rs.100 crore. In its first meeting held on 22.12.2004, the Committee reviewed the progress of projects costing Rs 1000 crore and above and fixed targets for completion of the projects. The Committee took note of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources. The problems being faced in implementation of Railway Projects were also discussed like non-deposition of State share by the State Governments for cost-sharing projects, delay in forestry clearance and steep hike in steel prices. The problem areas are being continuously monitored and pursued for early resolution.